



MONROE THIS WEEK

October 21, 2016 Edition No. 40

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
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City Hall

806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Phone: 360.794.7400
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

Appointment Openings

Civil Service Commissioner

Job Openings

Finance Director
www.monroewa.gov/jobs

Events this Week

- 10/21** Oktoberfest Bingo,
Brats, & Beer, East
County Senior Center,
5PM
- 10/22** D.M.A. Case for a
Cause, Market Place,
114 N. Lewis St.
7-10PM, \$10.00
- 10/22** Seattle Spartan Beast &
Sprint Weekend,
10/23 Meadow Wood
Equestrian Center,
7:30AM
- 10/23** Heroin...We Need To
Talk, Monroe Boys &
Girls Club, 261 Sky
River Parkway, 2-4PM
- 10/25** Monroe City Council
Meeting, Council
Chambers, City Hall,
7PM
- 10/29** Coffee with the Mayor,
Pilot House Coffee, 408/
W. Main St, 8-9:30AM
- 8th Annual Sky Valley
Classic, 100 BLK Main
St, 10AM-1PM

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week." If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at GThomas@MonroeWa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

Be In The Know!

Homelessness and Downtown

I've become aware of comments on social media about individuals sleeping on sidewalks in downtown. This is an issue that communities are facing across our region. The issue is one the City has been actively working on with our initial steps to curtail camping in City parks last year when the City and its partners were able to relocate a few dozen people out of a City park. At that time, many of the people we contacted accepted assistance to find housing.

Since then, I've been working with our Chief of Police and City Administrator to develop a better strategy to resolve these issues in Monroe - this includes the City contracting with an organization or agency to contact people who are homeless in our community to get them help. We're working to have this in place by the beginning of 2017. In the meantime, it is not lost on me that there are issues NOW - and they must be addressed with our existing resources.

To that end, I'm working with our Chief of Police to ensure that we are doing everything we can do now to address this issue. The Chief and I are following up with partners in the community, residents, businesses, and our City Council to develop more effective strategies to resolve the issue where existing city codes or resources fall short.

As part of this effort, our Police Department is able to trespass individuals on a business's private property without a phone call to 911 when the business submits a written request that we do

**City of Monroe
Year-to-Date Comparisons**

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'15 to 9/30/15: \$2,997,528

'16 to 9/30/16: \$3,304,016

UP \$306,488 or 10.22%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'15 to 9/30/15: \$492,811

'16 to 9/30/16: \$653,731

UP \$160,920 or 32.65%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'15 to 9/30/15: \$47,799

'16 to 9/30/16: \$56,852

UP \$9,053 or 18.94%

Business License Fees

'15 to 9/30/15: \$35,936

'16 to 9/30/16: \$35,174

DOWN \$762 or -2.12%

Building Permit Revenues

'15 to 9/30/15: \$225,697

'16 to 9/30/16: \$498,272

UP \$272,575 or 120.77%

Planning Fee Revenues

'15 to 9/30/15: \$56,990

'16 to 9/30/16: \$92,900

UP \$35,910 or 63.01%

New House Permits

'15 to 9/30/15: 41

'16 to 9/30/16: 93

UP 52 units or 126.8%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'15 to 9/30/15: 13

'16 to 9/30/16: 4

DOWN 9 units or -69.2%

Building Division Inspections

'15 to 9/30/15: 1,316

'16 to 9/30/16: 1,801

UP 485 or 36.9%

(Homelessness continued)

so. One such request is being circulated at the Ben Franklin/Safeway shopping area complex. I provided direction this morning that PD touch base with business owners in the Downtown this week to let them know this option is available.

I sincerely appreciate hearing from residents and business owners in Monroe. If you have concerns on any issue, please PM me on FB at "Mayor Geoffrey Thomas" or email me at gthomas@MonroeWA.gov. You may also reach me and Councilmembers at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov. And, for emergencies or crimes in progress, please call 911; otherwise for non-emergencies please call 360.794.6300 or email PDRecords@ci.monroe.wa.us.

We are actively engaged in this issue and thank you in advance for contacting the City about these and other concerns.

Downtown Public Art Sculpture Update

The pedestal for the art sculpture, "Wagner Swifts", is being installed at the northwest corner area of Main & Lewis Streets! This is the first step for artist Kevin Pettelle's sculpture. The scheduled timeline for installation of the artwork is by the end of November of this year, when there will be an unveiling ceremony. Stay tuned for updates!

Safety Tip

The turn of the season means it's getting darker earlier every evening. No matter where you are, you want to stay safe. If you are at home, on the road, or working out, there are plenty of safety tips to remember. This week's safety tip is below.

Driving

Driving at night is different than driving in daylight. There are hazards on the road that can be hard to see. When it stays darker longer that means you need to be cautious. Here are a few safety tips that will keep you and those around you safe while on the road.

- Be aware of decreased visibility. While it is getting darker, earlier, that means a decrease in visibility during rush hour. This can lead to more accidents. Make an extra effort to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Weather conditions will be different. Not only does it get dark earlier but the weather changes. Be sure that your car lights are all working and leveled. Also, be sure your wipers are in good condition.

Special Olympics Red Robin Statewide “Tip-A-Cop” Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign Fundraising Event

On Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, our officers will be at the Red Robin in Monroe as “Celebrity Waiters” to collect tips in support of Special Olympics. This is the 10th year that the Monroe Police Department has been participating in this event.

HEROIN, We Need to Talk...

The public is invited to a discussion on Heroin use in our Community. The event will take place on Sunday, October 23rd at the Monroe Boys and Girls Club, 2 pm – 4 pm. Guest speakers include Sergeant Ryan Irving with the Monroe Police Department; the Snohomish County Drug and Gang Task Force; Dr. Gary Goldbaum with the Snohomish County Health District, and Cleo Harris with Snohomish County Human Services who will present information on Naloxone Training. This is a great opportunity to receive information and ask questions.

Save The Date! Jayme Biendl 5K Memorial Run

Join us for the 6th Annual Jayme Biendl Memorial Run in Monroe, WA that supports families of police and correctional officers killed in the line of duty. This 5K Fun Run/Walk is a family and pet friendly event. The course starts/ends at Sky River Park and winds thru the grounds of the Washington State Reformatory. At the request of the family, proceeds are donated directly to the Behind the Badge Foundation. \$30 entry fee includes t-shirt. Pre-registrants may pick up shirts on run day. Register early to guarantee a shirt. If you register on the day of the race, t-shirt sizes will be limited.

Coffee With the Mayor

Join me Saturday, October 29, 2016 for coffee. I will be at Pilot House Coffee, 408 W. Main St, in Monroe from 8-9:30 a.m. Bring your questions, comments, or just stop by to say Hi. I look forward to seeing you!

We're Hiring

The City of Monroe is currently recruiting for a Finance Director. This position, reporting to the City Administrator, plays a crucial role as a member of the City's Strategic Leadership Team. The position is open until filled. First review November 7th. For more information and to submit an application, please visit:

www.monroewa.gov/jobs.